

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery service system, a method of sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:
obtaining/receiving e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;

specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

accessing an account of the sender/user to obtain sender/user information;

sending the e-media to the client/receiving party; and

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media; and

receiving the history record and a validation/audit of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/consumption of the e-media by the client/receiving party to allow the client/receiving party to make future e-media delivery decisions.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is attended by the client/receiving party.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the validation/audit includes at least one of:

a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and

a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier entered by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/consumed.

Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/receiving party.

Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the e-media is received/consumed by printing.

Claim 6 (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the e-media is received/consumed other than by printing.

Claim 7 (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media by a digital content delivery service system, the computer-executable instructions including the steps of:

obtaining/receiving e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;

specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

accessing an account of the sender/user to obtain sender/user information;

sending the e-media to the client/receiving party; and

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media;

receiving the history record and a validation/audit of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/consumption of the e-media by the client/receiving party; and

sending to the sender/user the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the client/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record.

Claim 8 (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is attended by the client/receiving party.

Claim 9 (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the validation/audit includes at least one of:

- a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and
- a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier entered by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/consumed.

Claim 10 (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/receiving party.

Claim 11 (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the e-media is received/consumed by printing.

Claim 12 (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the e-media is received/consumed other than by printing.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A digital content delivery service system for sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media, comprising:

- an interface e-media transfer unit, arranged to communicate with at least one of: a plurality of senders/users and other digital content delivery service system/systems and coupled to a sender/user account storage unit and a validation/audit processing unit, programmed to obtain/receive e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/receiving party and to store sender/user information and requested type of delivery in the sender/user account storage unit, wherein the sender/user specifies a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents

sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

the validation/audit processing unit, coupled to the interface e-media transfer unit and to the sender/user account storage unit, for obtaining sender/user information and the requested type of delivery from the sender/user account storage unit, sending the e-media to the client/receiving party/other digital content delivery service system/systems, creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media, and obtaining the history record and validation/audit information for receipt/consumption of the e-media; and

the sender/user account storage unit, coupled to the interface e-media transfer unit and the validation/audit processing unit, for storing sender/user information and a requested type of delivery of e-media; and

the sender/user receives the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the client/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record.

Claim 14 (original) The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein at least part of the validation/audit information of the requested type of delivery is provided by the client/receiving party.

Claim 15 (original) The digital content delivery service system of claim 14 wherein the validation/audit information includes at least one of:

a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and
a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique IDentifier entered by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate receipt/consumption of the e-media.

Claim 16 (original) The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the validation/audit information of the requested type of delivery is automatically provided by a device/devices of the client/receiving party.

Claim 17 (original) The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the receipt/consumption of the e-media is achieved by printing.

Claim 18 (original) The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the receipt/consumption of the e-media is achieved other than by printing.

Claim 19 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an attended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:
packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media;

specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

requesting, by the sender/user, a delivery service to deliver the e-media;

accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party;

delivering of the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party; and

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media; and

validating, by the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received and sending the history record to the sender/user and the client/receiving party.

Claim 20 (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and
determining a desired level of delivery validation.

Claim 21 (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and verifying utilization by the receiving party.

Claim 22 (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of validating, by the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received includes one of:

sending, by the client/receiving party, a biometric signature; and entering a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been utilized.

Claim 23 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of printed e-media, comprising the steps of:

packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media;
specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;
receiving, by the delivery service, the e-media delivery request;
accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;
transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;
automatically delivering of the e-media to a printer of the client/receiving party;
and
creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media; and
validating, by the printer of the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received/consumed and sending the history record to both the sender/user and the client/receiving party.

Claim 24 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

informing the delivery service that the e-media was transmitted; and
determining a desired level of delivery validation/audit.

Claim 25 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to the printer of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:
informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and
verifying receipt/consumption by the client/receiving party.

Claim 26 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the step of validating, by the printer of the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received/consumed includes one of:

automatically sending, by the printer of the client/receiving party, a biometric signature; and

automatically entering a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier by the printer of the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/consumed.

Claim 27 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media;

specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;

requesting, by the sender/user, the delivery service to deliver the e-media;

accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to a client/receiving party;

delivering of the e-media to a consumption device of the client/receiving party;

and

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media;

validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, correct delivery of the e-media and sending the history record to both the sender/user and the client/receiving party; and

sending to the sender/user the history record and regular status updates on availability times of the client/receiving party to receive new e-media based on the events of the history record.

Claim 28 (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the pertinent information includes at least one of:

- a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier;
- identification of the e-media; and
- a desired level of delivery validation/audit feedback.

Claim 29 (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the step of validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, the correct delivery of the e-media includes validating a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier.

Claim 30 (currently amended) In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

- packaging, by the sender, the e-media;
- specifying, by the sender/user, a level of feedback from the client/receiving party that includes determining if the e-media and attached documents sent with it were printed and if the client/receiving party opened and interacted with the e-media and attached documents;
- requesting, by the sender/user, the delivery service to deliver the e-media;
- accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;
- transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party;

delivering of the e-media to a consumption device of the client/receiving party;
and

creating a history record that includes a chain of delivery events occurring after sending the e-media and interaction events occurring after receipt of the e-media;

validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, correct delivery of the e-media; and

receiving the history record and a validation/audit of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/consumption of the e-media by the client/receiving party to allow the client/receiving party to make future e-media delivery decisions.

Claim 31 (original) The method of claim 30 wherein the pertinent information includes at least one of:

- a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier;
- identification of the e-media; and
- a desired level of delivery validation/audit feedback.

Claim 32 (original) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, the correct delivery of the e-media includes validating a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier.